



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

MAR 19 2007

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

Thank you for your February 26 letter on behalf of your constituents from the McLean Citizens Association about noise abatement procedures for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Thank you also for meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration officials on March 7 to discuss the issues raised in the letter. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) to minimize the environmental impacts of aviation.

We continue to work closely with MWAA to ensure the Part 150 Noise Study meets the regulation's requirements. MWAA is completing a supplemental analysis in support of the recommendations which we expect to receive in the next few weeks. Once the information is received, we anticipate issuing a decision in approximately 180 days.

As was discussed at the March 7 meeting, we are already taking steps to carry out the recommendation contained in MWAA's Part 150 study update in regard to the advanced navigational procedures at DCA. The process for development, review, and implementation of terminal area navigation (RNAV) procedures is thorough and lengthy. The process includes design, simulation, air traffic automation adaptation, environmental review, certification, training, charting, and post procedure analysis. An RNAV departure procedure for DCA for north operations is already under development. We will expedite the development of this procedure and hope to complete it as soon as February 14, 2008.

As discussed in the meeting, refresher training on the noise abatement procedures has been completed for the appropriate controllers and supervisors at Potomac TRACON. Refresher training on the noise abatement procedures will be completed by all air traffic personnel at the airport traffic control tower at DCA no later than April 13. This refresher training will be accomplished quarterly.

On March 21, DCA tower management will meet with the airlines' chief pilots to discuss the importance of adhering to local noise abatement procedures. This meeting will be co-hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority's Airport Noise Office.

Please ask your constituents to contact us whenever they would like to schedule the tours of the Potomac TRACON and of the airport traffic control tower at Reagan National Airport as was discussed in the meeting.

If I can be of further help, please contact me or Mrs. Megan Rosia, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,



Marion C. Blakey
Administrator